INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izzo DATE 10/5/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

AUGUST 18

L I M D I S

1. IN CALL ON PRIME MINISTER KY AUGUST 18, I FIRST RAISED THE PROBLEM OF MONTAGNARDS AND FULRO, TELLING HIM OF OUR PLEASURE AT HIS PROGRESS AND OF OUR CONCERN THAT AGREEMENT, SO FAR AS WE KNEW, HAD NOT BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE GVN AND FULRO. WE FEARED THAT IF AGREEMENT WERE NOT REACHED, EXTREMIST ELEMENTS AMONG FULRO AND OF THE MONTAGNARDS MIGHT START CAMPAIGN OPPOSING THE ELECTIONS OR SOME OTHER FORM OF ANTI-GVN ACTIVITIES.

2. KY SAID THAT THE PAPER HAD BEEN ALMOST READY AND THAT HE INTENDED TO SIGN IT BEFORE LEAVING FOR MANILA. AS IT WAS, HE HAD SIGNED THE PAPER THIS MORNING. ALSO NUR HAD ASKED THAT THE FULRO BE GIVEN MORE TIME TO PRESENT CANDIDATES AND HE HAD

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EXTENDED THE LAST DAY FOR FILING UNTIL THE END OF THE MONTH - AUGUST 30.

3. I THEN SAID THAT I HAD NOTED THE RECENT DEMANDS BY THE SO-CALLED "FRONT OF ALL RELIGIONS" AND THE BUDDHIST INSTITUTE CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE DETAINED FOLLOWING THE COUP OF NOVEMBER 1, 1963, AND THE RECENT "STRUGGLE". I NOTED THAT THE CASES OF THESE DETAINEES HAD INSPIRED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION AND I ASKED HIM WHAT HE THOUGHT WERE THE PROSPECTS OF SETTLING THIS MATER.

4. KY SHOOK HIS HEAD AND SAID THAT THE QUESTION WAS VERY COMPLEX AND HE DID NOT INTEND TO RAISE NEW PROBLEMS. THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF RIVALRY BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS SINCE BOTH

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CATHOLICS AND BUDDHISTS WERE INVOLVED. HE CITED THE CASE OF FORMER SECRET SERVICE CHIEF UNDER DIEM, TUYEN, AND SAID THE CATHOLICS WERE ASKING FOR HIS TRIAL BECAUSE THEY KNEW HE WAS NOT GUILTY. KY HAD ARRANGED TO POSTPONE HIS TRAIL, KNOWING THAT IF HE WAS FOUND NOT GUILTY, IT WOULD GIVE THE BUDDHISTS A STICK TO BEAT HIM WITH BECAUSE THE PUBLIC OVERWHELMINGLY THOUGHT THAT TUYEN WAS GUILTY. HE WAS INNOCENT ACCORDING TO

LAW BUT HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL NEVERTHELESS.

5. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, KY SAID THAT HE HAD THOUGHT OF REFERRING THE WHOLE MATTER OF THE DETAINEES TO THE PEOPLES ARMY COUNCIL OR TO SOME SPECIAL TRIBUNAL BUT HE HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER HE WOULD DO THIS OR NOT.

6. I TOLD HIM THAT BUU'S LAWYER, JAMES PATTON, WAS IN TOWN AND WOULD BE SEEKING AN APPOINTMENT.

7. I ASKED HIM WHAT PROBLEMS WERE INVOLVED IN DISTRIBUTING LAND BEFORE ELECTIONS.

8. KY SAID THAT HE HAD JUST BEEN TALKING TO THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE BEFORE MY ARRIVAL AND HAD SIGNED SOME DECREES INVOLVING THE DISTRIBUTION OF LAND IN THE TAY NINH AREA. IT WAS IN PART A QUESTION OF SIMPLIFYING OLD REGULATIONS. WHEN I ASKED WHETHER RECIPIENTS OF LAND TITLES WERE TERRORIZED BY THE VIET CONG, HE SAID THAT THIS HAD NOT BEEN THE CASE VERY MUCH BECAUSE MOST OF THEM WERE LIVING IN SECURE AREAS. HE FAVORS EXTENDING IT INTO INSECURE AREAS BECAUSE OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT.

9. I NOTED THE STORY IN THE PAPER THAT HE INTENDED TO HAVE A DEBATE WITH FATHER QUYNH AND WHEN HE SAID "YES" AND

ASKED ME WHAT I THOUGHT, I SAID THAT USUALLY, WHEN ONE WAS AHEAD, AS KY WAS, IT WAS INADVISABLE TO DEBATE BECAUSE YOU SIMPLY ADVERTISED CAUSES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE HOSTILE TO YOU. I THOUGHT TODAY THAT MANY PEOPLE TOOK IT AS A MATTER OF COURSE THAT THEY WOULD TAKE PART IN THE ELECTIONS. IF, ON

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THE OTHER HAND, KY STARTED DEBATING, IT MIGHT GIVE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE THE IDEA THAT BOYCOTTING THE ELECTIONS WAS A PROPER PROCEDURE.

10. KY SAID THAT HE WAS PLANNING TO DEBATE IN ORDER TO "DISCREDIT" HIS OPPONENT. IN PARTICULAR, HE WAS GOING TO INVITE THICH THIEN HOA, THE HEAD OF THE VIEN HOA DAO, TO DEBATE WITH HIM AND HE WAS SURE THAT HOA WOULD DECLINE. THEN, HE ADDED, THAT, ON THE STRENGTH OF WHAT I SAID, HE WOULD THINK ABOUT IT AGAIN. HE REALLY HADN'T DECIDED.

11. I COMPLIMENTED HIM ON THE EXCELLENT PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT PREPARING THE PUBLIC FOR THE ELECTIONS. HE SAID THAT HE WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH THE SUCCESS OF AN ELECTION SONG WHICH WAS ON EVERYBODY'S LIPS AT THE PRESENT TIME. (THERE ARE A NUMBER OF SONGS PROMOTING THE ELECTIONS THAT ARE PLAYED OVER RADIO, TV, AND SUNG BY ENTERTAINMENT GROUPS.)

12. I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUGGEST THAT IN HIS FUTURE PRESS CONFERENCES, ALL THE QUESTIONS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE BE TRANSLATED INTO VIETNAMESE. THIS, I SAID, WOULD BE A COURTESY TO THE VIETNAMESE NEWSPAPERMEN. IT WOULD ALSO GIVE HIM MORE TIME TO THINK AND COMPOSE HIS ANSWERS.

13. KY SAID THAT HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT VIOLENT VIET CONG ATTEMPTS IN SAIGON TO TERRORIZE PEOPLE AND INTERFERE WITH THE ELECTIONS. HE HAD EVIDENCE THAT THE VIET CONG WAS BUYING ARVN UNIFORMS - WHICH THEY CAN DO. HE FEARED INFILTRATION INTO SAIGON WITH VIOLENCE BEING COORDINATED WITH FATHER QUYNH AND TRI QUANG. HE EXPECTS MORTAR FIRE, COMMANDO RAIDS, ATTEMPTS TO KILL GENERALS AND HIGH RANKING AMERICANS WITH A "FAST ATTACK BY 100 OR 200 MEN". HE FORESAW SABOTAGE. HE AND THIEU ARE MAKING PLANS TO COUNTER THIS. HE WAS ASKING POLICE CHIEF COLONEL LOAN TO HAVE MORE "RATISSAGE", THAT IS A FINE TOOTH COMB PRECINCT BY PRECINCT CLEAN-OUT PROCEDURE, BASED ON CENSUS, ID CARDS, CURFEW, ECT.
LODGE

NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O 8/13/66, 9:37 A.M.
PASSED WHITE HOUSE, CIA, DOD, NSA, USIA 8/13/66, 9:37 AM

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